

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----111413 231738Z /53

R 231438Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8603
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 15896

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PINT, UR
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE KGB PROVOCATION - THE CANADIAN ANGLE

REF: (A) MOSCOW 9704; (B) LENINGRAD 780;
(C) LONDON 11083

1. MRS. SYLVIA BECKER OF "COMMITTEE OF 35'S," OUR ORIGINAL SOURCE OF INFORMATION ON THE ROLE OF "CANADIAN BUSINESSMAN" WILLIAM FAWCETT IN THE APPARENT PROVOCATION OF PROMINENT GEORGIAN DISSIDENTS AND REFUSENIKS (LONDON 9502) HAS PROVIDED THE EMBASSY WITH A COPY OF A MEMORANDUM WITH FURTHER INFORMATION ON FAWCETT BY LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS SCHOLAR AND WRITER PETER REDDAWAY. REDDAWAY'S MEMO, DATED SEPTEMBER 6, IS BASED ON A MEETING WITH LENINGRAD EMIGRE ILYE LEVIN.

2. FULL TEXT OF REDDAWAY MEMORANDUM FOLLOWS: BEGIN
QUOTE -

ON 6 JULY, 1977, THE TIMES PUBLISHED MY FEATURE ARTICLE ABOUT THE ATTEMPTS BY A SUPPOSED CANADIAN BUSINESSMAN, "WILLIAM FAWCETT," TO PROVOKE JEWISH
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REFUSENIKS AND GEORGIAN DISSENTERS IN TBILISI INTO COLLABORATING WITH THE CIA. THE ARTICLE WAS BASED ON A DOCUMENT RECEIVED FROM THE JEWS AND GEORGIANS CONCERNED, AND IT PUT THE VIEW THAT FAWCETT WAS IN FACT ALMOST CERTAINLY A KGB PROVOCATEUR.

NOW I HAVE RECEIVED NEW INFORMATION ABOUT FAWCETT' EARLIER ACTIVITIES. THIS COMES FROM MR. ILYA LEVIN, AN

ACTIVIST FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS IN THE ZIONIST AND DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENTS IN LENINGRAD, WHO RECENTLY EMIGRATED FROM THE USSR AND IS ABOUT TO TAKE UP A POST AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS IN AUSTIN. MR. LEVIN IS A RELIABLE AND ACCURATE WITNESS, AND I HAVE NO DOUBTS THAT HE TOLD ME THE TRUTH. IF ANYONE WISHES TO WRITE TO HIM, HE CAN BE REACHED AT THIS ADDRESS: DEPARTMENT OF SLAVIC LANGUAGES, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN, AUSTIN, TEXAS 787L2, USA.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS IN SUMMARY FORM, AS I DID NOT UNFORTUNATELY HAVE LONG ENOUGH SPEAKING TO MR. LEVIN TO NOTE DOWN MORE PRECISE DETAILS. LEVIN MET FAWCETT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN APRIL OR MAY OF 1975, WHEN FAWCETT APPEARED AND SHOWED SYMPATHETIC INTEREST IN THE ACTIVITIES OF LEVIN AND HIS CIRCLES IN LENINGRAD. ON 6 FEBRUARY, 1976, A DISSENTING POET, JULIA VOZNESENSKAYA, PHONED LEVIN, HER FRIEND, TO SAY THAT FAWCETT HAD APPEARED AND WAS OFFERING HIS SERVICES. LEVIN SAW HIM SEVERAL TIMES BETWEEN 6 AND 9 FEBRUARY, 1976, BEFORE BECOMING ALMOST CERTAIN THAT HE WAS A KGB PROVOCATEUR AND THEREFORE HAVING NOTHING MORE TO DO WITH HIM. FAWCETT SAID THAT HE WAS A CANADIAN BUSINESSMAN WHO DID LARGE-SCALE DEALS WITH THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES, AND THAT HIS FIRM WAS BASED IN LONDON. LEVIN STUDIED A MAP OF LONDON, AND THEN AT THE NEXT MEETING PUT VARIOUS QUESTIONS ABOUT LONDON TO FAWCETT, AND WAS SATISFIED

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FROM THE REPLIES THAT FAWCETT DID NOT IN FACT KNOW LONDON AT ALL. FAWCETT WAS ANXIOUS TO FIND A DISSENTING ARTIST CALLED FILIMONOV, WHO WAS IN BIG TROUBLE WITH THE KGB, AND TO GIVE HIM A FALSE PASSPORT WHICH HE COULD USE TO GET OUT OF THE COUNTRY. LEVIN WAS SUSPICIOUS OF THIS HIGHLY DANGEROUS ENTERPRISE, AND DID NOT PUT FAWCETT IN TOUCH WITH FILIMONOV, BUT CARRIED OUT A FEW CHECKS ON FAWCETT.

HE PHONED HIM AT HIS HOTEL, THE EVROPEISKAYA, AND WAS DULY PUT THROUGH TO HIM IN HIS ROOM: THIS SUGGESTED THAT HE WAS INDEED REGISTERED IN THE HOTEL UNDER THE NAME FAWCETT. HOWEVER, FAWCETT SAID THAT HE HAD SPENT THE PREVIOUS YEAR TRAVELING ALL OVER THE WORLD, AND WHEN LEVIN DEVISED A PRETEXT TO ASK TO SEE HIS PASSPORT, LEVIN SAW THAT ALTHOUGH IT WAS A CANADIAN PASSPORT IN THE NAME OF WILLIAM FAWCETT, ITS VISA PAGES CONTAINED NO STAMPS AT ALL. THIS SUGGESTED THAT HE HAD NOT, IN FACT, TRAVELED ABROAD AS HE HAD CLAIMED.

ALSO, HE CLAIMED NOT TO SPEAK ANY RUSSIAN, BUT LEVIN WAS NOT CONVINCED ABOUT THIS AND ALSO WAS NOT

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SURE ABOUT HIS CANADIAN ACCENT BEINT AUTHENTIC.
FINALLY, WHEN LEVIN TOLD FAWCETT THAT HE WAS TRYING TO
EMIGRATE, FAWCETT SUGGESTED TO HIM THAT HE WOULD DO
BETTER TO SAY IN THE SOVIET UNION AND WORK AS AN AGENT
FOR A CERTAIN INTELLIGENCE AGENCY - HE HINTED CLEARLY
AT THE CIA. HE ASSURED LEVIN THAT HE WOULD BE
PROVIDED WITH AN EXCELLENT COVER AND ALSO WITH PLENTY
OF MONEY. AT THIS POINT LEVIN HAD NOTHING MORE TO DO
WITH HIM.

LEVIN WAS EXTREMELY INTERESTED TO HEAR ABOUT
FAWCETT'S ACTIVITIES IN GEORGIA, AND ALSO TO LEARN THAT
THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT HAD CHECKED THOROUGHLY TO SEE
WHETHER THERE WAS IN EXISTENCE A CANADIAN BUSINESSMAN
CALLED WILLIAM FAWCETT DOING LARGE-SCALE BUSINESS WITH
THE SOVIET UNION FROM HIS BASE IN TOKYO (N.B. THE VARIA-
TION IN THE CITY OF HIS BASE). HE WAS NOT SURPRISED
THAT THIS INVESTIGATION PRODUCED NO TRACE OF SUCH A PER-
SON. HE NOW BELIEVES THAT FAWCETT IS PROBABLY A KGB
AGENT AND A RUSSIAN, WHO HAD BEEN GIVEN A CANADIAN PASS-
PORT BY THE KGB, WHICH COULD EITHER BE FORGED OR THE
STOLEN PROPERTY OF A GENUINE WILLIAM FAWCETT WHO MIGHT
BE EITHER ALIVE OR DEAD.

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THIS ALSO SEEMS TO ME THE MOST LIKELY EXPLANATION
BUT CLEARLY FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS COULD BE CARRIED OUT.

/S/ PETER REDDAWAY

END QUOTE.

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